

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 51

November 2004

No. 9



Calendar

Fri., Nov. 19	Film Society, Town Hall, 7:30 pm; <i>Run, Lola, Run</i>	Fri., Dec. 3	22nd Annual Do-it-Yourself Carolfest, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Sat., Nov. 20	Last Farmer's Market, Penn Place	Sat., Dec. 4	GIVES, Penn Place lobby; Santa at Town Hall, afternoon
Tues., Nov. 23	Meeting on school addition, GPES Media Center, 7 pm (see p 2)	Mon., Dec. 13	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Wed., Nov. 24	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm, Community Forum (see p 8)	Tues., Dec. 14	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Thurs., Nov. 25	No trash collection; Thanksgiving	Wed., Dec. 15	Jam session, Town Hall, 7 pm
Wed., Dec. 1	Once-a-month yard waste collection day	Sat., Dec. 18	Luminaria walk (see p 8)
Thurs., Dec. 2	Jam session, Town Hall, 7 pm	Wed., Dec. 29	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm, TBD
		Sat., Jan. 1	New Year's Day reception, Town Hall, 4-6 pm
		Sat., Jan. 22	Town Dinner, Town Hall

In the Shadow of the Fire Marshal

There's a well-known painting by Norman Rockwell, titled "Freedom of Speech," which shows a nervous Vermonter grasping the wooden railing in front of him as he offers his opinion at a town meeting. Your reporter couldn't help but think of this inspiring painting during Garrett Park's November Town Council meeting, when many of our own citizens, ordinary diplomats, professors, and international lawyers, approached the microphone to claim their right to speak.

There was much to be said, too, from an inquiry as to when a big rotting cherry tree will be removed (the State Forester must first declare it really, most sincerely, dead) to a request for a speedbump along the 10800 block of Keswick (granted). A representative from the Pool Board asked that the town change the "Fire Lane" designation of parking on the pool side of Cambria to "No Parking," so that people don't get any more \$250 tickets, as some did last summer. The Council said that it would come up with a solution.

(continued next page)

Garrett Park Citizens Association
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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(continued from previous page)

But the Mayor cautioned that the Fire Marshal can be a stickler, and not merely about parking, but about, for instance, the sort of furniture we can and can't have in the second floor public spaces of Penn Place. "Nothing with cushions, for instance," she said. People gasped. "Incredible." "Unbelievable." (For a very Blue town in a very Blue state, Garrett Park exhibited throughout this meeting a lot of resentment of government, at least as it is embodied in people like State Foresters and Fire Marshals.)

In her report, the Mayor said that on a recent night she was shown the proposed retrofit for the streetlights (to add to her fun, there was, that same evening, an eclipse of the moon), and that things look good: "Soon the citizenry will be able to sleep." The lighting company will pay for the work.

At this point, a citizen in the audience praised the beauty of the other new streetlights, along Strathmore ("Ted Pratt," said the Mayor, "is to be thanked for that"), and asked when bulbs would be installed. "Never," a councilmember responded. "Ran out of money." But he was kidding.

The Mayor went on to note that the sidewalk along Waverly was the site of two recent injuries: an older citizen fell, and a young child, out "wagoning," hit the curb and broke some bones. Eighteen squares of that sidewalk are out of alignment; fixing them would cost around \$3,500. Councilmember Keller proposed that we get a bid to redo the entire sidewalk.

In Councilmember Reports, Chris Keller mentioned the arrival of some more trees, mainly for the Montrose/Waverly area, and particularly in front of Penn Place. This time, he has some nice sugar maples for us, and "additions to the existing gingko collection."

Councilmember Wegner alerted the Council and the town to the urgent need for reading tutors at Garrett Park Elementary School. Your reporter recognizes that it's tacky to use the forum of the *Bugle* to press issues of personal interest, but what the heck—as an English professor, she seconds this request enthusiastically. Volunteer there if you can.

The Council approved the demolition of a house on 11311 Kenilworth Avenue. It is not of historic significance, and it seems to have had an oak tree sitting in its living room for two years.

The town received a memo from Barbara Black asking for some upgrading of the management of the bathroom at Penn Place, and the town is looking into the matter, especially the need for a new treatment on the floor of the urinal. Mention of this matter produced juvenile snickers in the audience, and the Mayor (a retired teacher) gently reprimanded us, and then launched into a nostalgic remembrance of some very interesting bathrooms she once saw in Amsterdam.

A good deal of further discussion about various uses of Penn Place's public spaces (about which Barbara Black also wrote in her memo) went on. One potentially controversial matter involves how we feel about restaurant patrons walking around with wine glasses while waiting for tables.

Nancy Schwartz and Chris Fischman are looking into the question of furnishings for the town lobby area. "We can put benches there, but we can't put chairs," said the Mayor, rousing the town once again to resentment of the Fire Marshal. "Pews would be nice and stable," someone said. We also seem to have the offer of a train set for display in that area, and of course the town archives have many pictures of historical significance for the walls. But we still have a good deal of thinking to do about security, placement, and the like.

Margaret Soltan

GPES

Did you see the shortened parade this year for Halloween? Captain Hook and Peter Pan led off, accompanied by the Darling children, their dog Nana, and several pirates. Even though it was drizzling, the children enjoyed themselves.

On November 23 at 7 pm in the Media Center of the school, a meeting, open to all residents, will be held to go over the plans for the six-room addition. This addition will remain when the school is renovated in the future (i.e., torn down and replaced). The construction of the addition is slated to start in July 2005. Who knows when the razing will take place?

And finally, the students of Garrett Park held a mock election at all grade levels before the general election was held. Kerry won with 262 votes, Bush had 111, and Ralph Nader had 3. The upper grades re-elected Barbara Mikulski and Chris Van Hollen.

Mary Moyer

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$10 per family or \$5 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Town Administrator Notes

Holiday Gifts: If any resident would like to make a holiday gift to the men who take away our trash, recycling, and yard waste, please mail or drop off your gift to the Town Office, checks payable to Garrett Park. We are handling this differently this year because of an unfortunate incident last year when a check went astray. The Town will send each contributor an acknowledgment and will see that the fund is properly distributed to the Waste Management staff the week before Christmas.

Penn Place: Everyone is settling into the building quite well. There are a number of things that still need attention and the “punch list” that details them has been compiled for our contractor, who will start work on the list on Monday, November 15. Expect a few more trucks around the building for a few weeks.

Parking: When the leaves are mostly gone, we will start marking parking places along the south side of Waverly and the west side of park place. We will contact MARC to get them to re-stripe the spaces for commuters. The town has made more spaces available at the north end of the commuter parking area in an effort to relieve congestion. When all spaces are properly marked, we expect the parking situation to improve.

Strathmore Avenue: Work has proceeded rapidly in recent weeks, and by the time you read this, curb installation should have started on the south side of the road. The State Highway Administration hopes to have all the curbing, sidewalk, and driveway work done before the snow flies, leaving the final asphalt work and landscaping for the spring.

Montgomery County Volunteer Center: The MCVC has compiled a listing of ways to help others during the holiday season. To donate time, money, or gifts, call the Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600 or visit their website at www.montgomeryvolunteer.org. This information and list of needs for November and December is also posted on the bulletin board in Penn Place.

Laura, Butch, and Frank join me in wishing all town residents a fine Thanksgiving. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or just want to chat, please feel free to stop by the office any time, or call at 301 933-7488.

Ted Pratt
Town Administrator



The Frightening Woods

The night was strangely warm for October.
Everything, on my way to the frightening woods,
Was strange: Political posters
With peculiar calligraphy stood
Darkly on darkened lawns; gray cats grazed my
shoes;
And the wilder life of the suburbs (squirrel, raccoon,
deer, rat,
Rabbit, coyote, opossum, bat)
Seemed to beckon, “Come away! Come away with
us to

The Frightening Woods.” And so I followed
To the edge of a basketball court
Where ancient townspeople had hollowed
A path through thickets of St. John’s wort
To make a shortcut to the pool.

“Fool!” said I to myself as I scanned
The long table of jack-o’-lanterns manned
By wizards who judged among the witches,
Skulls, and spiders wrought by the hand
Of troubled youth. “There’s no going back now.”
I glanced at the brightly lit windows of Black Market,
Where happy people ate the riches
Of a less troubled world, and wondered how
It had come to this.

“You write for the *Beagle*!” said a voice
In the crowd that had gathered at the curtained gate
Of the Frightening Woods. I corrected her
misapprehension.
The tension
Grew.
I asked a nearby child if she’d already been through.
“Yes,” she answered (Z.Z. was her name), “and I hate
To tell you, but it’s scary.”

Strobe lights under black sheeting
Turned human bodies spastic shapes.
Someone had witnessed vampires taking a beating
And put the incident on tape.
The woods themselves were lined with tombstones
And eerie twinkling lights. At odd moments
Strange creatures in flowing robes hurled themselves
Upon me, wailing! A chorus of moans!
I found myself flailing, desperate for escape.

But the only way out was straight ahead
Through the fields of the dead
To the nice man at the entrance
To Monstrous—no, Montrose, Avenue.
He wore a strange wig.
“Time for a candy bar,” he said, “now that you’re
through.”

Margaret Soltan

Kindness of Strangers

While walking toward Penn Place on the sidewalk by the tennis court, I was hurrying to meet a friend for lunch on October 25. It was drizzling rain, and leaves had fallen on the walk. As I hurried along, I tripped and took a header into the concrete walkway. Not quite catching myself on my knee and on my hands, I landed on my left cheek and pushed my glasses into my eyebrow, which caused a gusher of blood. Some sweet young men stopped to give me first aid and called my husband Cal and the rescue squad. By the time Cal and the rescue squad arrived, one of the young men had borrowed a diaper from a young mother and baby who were behind me on the walkway, and he had stopped the gusher of blood from my head. Cal took me to the ER, where a CT scan identified an orbital floor fracture, which will heal without surgery. A couple of stitches closed the wounded eyebrow.

My young rescuer and his friends were on their way to a birthday lunch and did a friendly deed by giving me first aid and calling for help. What a way to start a birthday lunch! And I was disoriented enough not to get their names. But I want to thank them many times over and hope their lunch went well. This episode reminded me how important it is to know what to do in an emergency.

I wanted everyone to know what wonderful people live in and around Garrett Park and how fortunate I was that there was a knowledgeable person who was willing to help. A great big thanks to the guys, to Cal, to those who have inquired about me, and to the baby who lent his diaper. I'm sure my pride will heal along with my cheek.

Betty Baldwin

Generosity

As every Garrett Park Elementary School parent knows, the PTA book fair is one of the big events of the year. It's also a chance for the school to garner some much-needed books, thanks to generous givers who contribute texts from teachers' wish lists. What you likely don't know is that for two years now, every book on every wish list has been bought for the school. Why? Because, at the end of the sale, Jeremy Lichtenstein writes a generous check for all of them—about 250 books in all, so far. I think this good deed should be recognized, with thanks from the entire community.

Richard Folkers

We're Green Again!

Our green banner this month is courtesy of ex-Garrett Parker Zoe Morris Conrad. Zoe grew up on Kenilworth Avenue, and always visited when she was nearby. She now resides in both Maine and Florida. We thank her most gratefully. We will be green for all of this printing year, thanks to the generosity of our readers. So I will not be asking again for money in this spot until April. However, if anyone would like to start the ball rolling for 2005/06 printing year, feel free to just send a check for \$25 (the minimum donation required) or \$37 (the actual printing cost) to Mary Moyer, Box 98, Garrett Park, or put it in my front porch mail box. Thanks in advance.

Mary Moyer

GIVES

With the opening of the newly renovated Penn Place, volunteers will once again be sitting inside the post office lobby, usually the first Saturday of each month, to collect money for the American Friends Service Committee and Zacchaeus Community Kitchen in Washington, D.C. Stamped envelopes will also be available in the lobby, so please pick one up and make a contribution, no matter how small. The holidays are a good time to think of people who are not as fortunate as we are. We are grateful that Karen Anderson will be taking Henny McDowell's place as Treasurer, but we still need additional volunteers to collect money the first Saturday of each month for 2 hours. For more information, call Glenda Ingham.

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Arboretum Notes

On an overcast Sunday afternoon, October 24, a turnout of more than 32 residents participated in the Annual Autumn Tree Walk, with advisory arborist Phil Normandy leading the way. Phil imparted much valuable information, including the diseases and various habitat reasons behind the decline of the old monoculture sugar maples, as well as the different species of sugar maples lining Waverly and Montrose Avenues. He also pointed out some impediments, mostly overhead wires, that influence what is planted where. In Porcupine Woods, he showed us how invasive plants have overtaken much of the understory from native plants. The walk ended at 3:15, with Phil answering more questions posed to him while we all consumed cider and cookies on the porch of Penn Place, courtesy of Dick and Liz Doring. For those of you who missed the tour this year, we will try to schedule next year's Tree Walk for the fourth Sunday of October 2005, in our effort to develop even more interest in our Arboretum.

Our liaison councilmember, Chris Keller, is again hard at work staking locations for our fall tree plantings along the town right of way. He was successful in placing still another group tree order, which will make this year's total planted

to be more than 40 in all! One special tree should be noted by all who pass in front of the GP Town Hall later this month; it is a freely donated *Acer griseum*, with cost of its planting (a very large specimen) borne by one of your generous Arboretum Committee members, Kay Hager. This coordination of efforts from the Town Council and residents is yet another example of GP community spirit to enhance its Arboretum accessions.

This year the county has provided free compost bin siding material, as long as supplies last, which is easy to install in your back yard to collect fallen leaves, etc. Ask a neighbor who has one, or contact a committee member for where to get the free bin material, if you want to make home grown compost—it's useful to amend our clay soil, winter over plants, or help prepare a garden bed next spring.

And for those of you plagued by nibbling deer, You can try spreading commercial Milorganite fertilizer around the base of your succulents now. It works. You can buy Milorganite in 20-lb bags at Hardware City or other hardware stores.

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Garrett Park Job Seekers!

So you're looking out your window at the season's first snowfall; who are you going to call? Why, the willing and able bodies of Garrett Park teenagers, ready and anxious to take to their shovels and remove *your* snow! See the print version of the *Bugle* to see the names of those who have responded to the call for our annual jobs list. And fear not, if there is no snow, they also baby sit—so just give them a call, and then go on out for a relaxing dinner or night on the town.

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Babies, babies, babies! Congratulations to Art and Gerilee Bennett on the birth of their daughter on October 22. Her proud older sister is a big help to mom and dad.
- ♪ Former town resident Lyle Green and his wife Jennifer welcomed their son to the world on October 23. He joins a big sister at home in Derwood. Grandmother Marian Green resides on Montrose Avenue. Congratulations to all.
- ♪ Alison (Ingham) Blakely and husband Brent are happy to announce the birth of their first child, a son, born on October 2, 2004, in Hermosa Beach, California. Sister Kristen, husband Mike, and baby (11 months) live a few blocks away.
- ♪ Violet Morris died of heart failure on October 12 in the Kensington Nursing Home. She was 87 years old, and for the past six years had lived in Garrett Park with her daughter Jean Agenbroad and husband Jim.

The Holiday Season Begins

On December 3, the holiday season in Garrett Park makes its official opening at the twenty-second annual Do-it-Yourself Carolfest, held at the Town Hall at 7:30 pm. Directed again this year by Sue Numrich, the songs will include a mixture of sacred and secular music. The first half will be geared towards the children, so that after intermission the younger participants can leave, and the serious singers can continue with some harder music. The small group will entertain with a band song celebrating the holidays. The *Messiah* songs went so well last year that we will attempt them again this year. So bring your voices ready to open the holiday season in rousing song.

Mary Moyer

Notes from the P. O.

Overseas mailing for the holidays is upon us. In fact, the deadline for surface mailing has passed. It takes 6 to 8 weeks for surface mail to arrive at its destination. For Air Parcel Post, the recommended deadline to Africa is December 6, to Europe December 10, and to Canada December 13. Check with us for other destinations.

Alert postal customer Dan Marsh discovered that a "Duck Stamp" costing \$15 can be used to gain entry to National Wildlife Refuges. For example, the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge costs \$10 to visit without a Duck Stamp. If you are planning to visit more than one of these areas, a Duck Stamp is a way to save on entry fees. The Duck Stamp is valid for one year from July 1 to June 30. If there is enough interest in this I will order Duck Stamps.

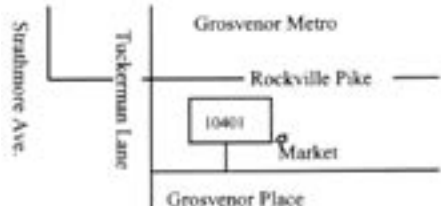
Another alert postal customer, Nick Doumopoulos, disgusted with catalogues jamming his P.O. box, found the Mail Preference Service online at www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailinglist to get his name removed from mailing lists. He kindly printed out the information. It is available at the Post Office for those of you who are technologically challenged. The address is Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, P. O. Box 643, Carmel, NY 15012-0643.

With the holidays fast approaching, the Post Office has a large supply of mailing and packaging materials including holiday motif padded bags and labels.

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Letter from the Mayor

As we near Thanksgiving there are many things to be thankful for here in Garrett Park. Penn Place is up and running. Town Administrator Ted Pratt is the building manager and is busy learning how to make the building run well. On Election Day a crew of architects, including our Harry Gordon and Bob Reinhardt, toured the building with the architects of record, Greg Wiedemann and Andrew Dan, to make the "punch list": the list of things that need to be done to finish our beautiful building. The Kfoury Company will working on these items under the direction of Charlie Nestor, the job superintendent. The Town Council, with the help of Nancy Schwartz and Chris Fischman, are considering how to furnish the street level town lobby to make it a place that we can gather to visit with one another. If you have ideas or would like to contribute to this effort, please talk to Nancy or Chris. We are still working on solutions for parking in the area around Penn Place. On November 12 at 1:30, I counted 70 cars parked near the building.

On November 4, County Executive Duncan brought all the department heads of Montgomery County to tour Penn Place and have lunch at the Black Market. I was asked to meet the group, tell them about Penn Place, show them the building, and have lunch. There were many compliments for the building and the café.

On the night of the full eclipse, Councilmember Hans Wegner, former Councilmember Chris Fischman, two representatives of the Holophane Company which supplied our street lights, Scott Watson, the Town lighting consultant, and I all met to consider a proposed retrofit of the street lights and to enjoy the eclipse. The retrofit has been installed in the first light south of Strathmore on Montrose. Scott measured the light output and found that it exactly matched the specifications of the lights we ordered. The retrofitted lights will focus all the light on the street while stopping the glare in our houses. The Holophane Company has decided that they will send their own crew to do the retrofitting work. They

should be here in the first week of December, weather permitting.

Many of you have seen the new dark green light poles along Strathmore. They were scheduled to be a shiny aluminum, but Ted Pratt saved us by hunting down the manufacturer of the poles. The Council agreed to pay the cost of having the factory paint the poles, so Butch hand-carried a check to the factory in time to get the poles painted.

Today I met Jennie Forehand, our state senator, and we toured the town so that Jenny could catch up on the happenings here. She has promised to come to our New Year's Day celebration and will arrange to come to town in early January with the rest of our delegation to give us a forecast of the coming legislative session. Jennie and I talked about what pleasure we find in being able to do things that help our neighbors.

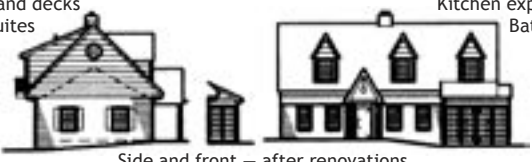
We are still looking for people to serve on the Parks and Open Spaces Committee and the Town Right of Way Committee. In the next few months we will be establishing a committee to review the town's infrastructure and develop a long range plan for improvements.

It has been another busy month.

Carolyn Shawaker

Home additions
Porches and decks
Master suites

Home offices
Kitchen expansions
Bathrooms




Side and front — after renovations

Douglas Mader, AIA

Architect — Home Additions Specialist
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Holiday Luminaria Walk

On Saturday night, December 18, join with the Citizens Association in our Annual (we hope) Holiday Luminaria Walk through Garrett Park. In case you aren't familiar, luminaria are traditional Mexican Christmas lanterns, each consisting of a candle set in sand inside a paper bag. At 6 pm on December 18, luminaria will be placed outside homes and throughout common areas in Garrett Park. It should be a beautiful sight! Everyone will be encouraged to walk throughout town, meeting friends, listening to carolers, and stopping for warm drinks at the homes of a few friends who have volunteered to open their porches and parlors along the way. We will end at the Town Hall for more refreshments, some dessert, and more singing around a bonfire.

The Citizens Association will be selling the luminaria materials in the weeks leading up to the event, as well as providing a bit more detail about routes and open homes. If you'd like to volunteer in any capacity, we'd love your help. If you're interested, please call Jack Mandel.

Needlepointers Needed

Are you looking for a handwork project for the long, cold nights ahead? We need folks who will help with needlepoint cushions for the window seats in the Post Office. Artist Jane Salomon is creating designs for the cushions, and we need people to do some of the needlepointing. If you are willing to devote some time to making our new building a little more homey and comfortable, please call Nancy Schwartz. We can even provide training for the willing but unskilled.

Visit Garrett Park's Website:

www.garrettpark.org/

GP Citizens Association

Forum on Town Issues

On Wednesday, November 24, at 8 pm in the Town Hall, the GPCA will host a forum to address three issues of concern to citizens and town leaders:

- The town needs to construct a building in which to store new equipment for snow and leaf removal. Where should it go?
- Several residents have built parking pads that encroach on the town's right-of-way and either threaten existing trees or cover areas that could be used for new trees. The Council has appointed a committee to investigate the problem. What should be done?
- There is a temporary speed bump on Montrose near Waverly, and the Council recently approved a speed bump on Keswick. What more can we do to slow down cars on our residential streets?

Please attend this meeting, hear the issues, and express your views!

Planning Activities for 2004-05

Halloween was a huge success, with lots of families coming to carve award-winning pumpkins in the afternoon and many more enjoying a scary walk in Porcupine Woods that evening. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with this event! We hope it will be even bigger and better next year.

Please plan to attend the following GPCA events and meetings:

December 18	Holiday Luminaria and Caroling Party
January 22	Town Dinner
January 27	Coalition of Kensington Communities
February	No meeting
March	Nominations for Town Office
April	Candidates' Forum
May	Town Issues Forum



Music By George Oakley 3³⁰ p.m.

Santa Arrives 4 p.m.

Hot Chocolate, cookies, Candy //
a donation of cookies would be nice